

From: [Amy Defreese](#)
To: [Julie Reeves](#); [Creed Clayton](#); [Brian Novosak](#)
Cc: [Tyler Abbott](#)
Subject: RE: Q: TWE status
Date: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 3:59:41 PM

Hi Julie,

These are my initial thoughts:

- 1) TWE and WAPA have hired SWCA to develop the HEA for greater sage-grouse. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for April 3. I have sent two emails to WAPA (Misti Sporer) and Sharon Knowlton about the need to take a step back and make some decisions about the larger greater sage-grouse Framework that encompasses the HEA. I believe Sharon forwarded my emails to Dennis Seville, but I have not yet heard anything back from him. My major rub is that TWE is developing the HEA in a bit of a vacuum, without any context that would otherwise be provided by the larger Framework. The two (HEA and the Framework) go hand in hand and I think it is in everyone's best interest for BLM to take the lead on the Framework and provide a thorough explanation to the cooperating agencies that identifies how, when and where, the Framework will be implemented.
- 2) The indecision on the part of Utah BLM about a migratory bird conservation plan gives me pause.
- 3) Our office has major concerns with clay phacelia where the applicant preferred alternative is aligned through Spanish Fork Canyon in Utah. AECOM tells me the Applicant Preferred Alternative won't be "finalized" for a while, and that we'll discuss clay phacelia then, and/or when the Section 7 consultation starts. If there are impacts to clay phacelia as a result of this project, we could be in a jeopardy situation. Therefore, I think it is in BLM and WAPA's best interest to incorporate consideration of clay phacelia into their decision making when they finalize the applicant preferred alternative, prior to the initiation of Section 7 consultation.

Thanks!

Amy

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From: Reeves, Julie [mailto:julie_reeves@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 3:26 PM
To: Amy Defreese; Creed Clayton; Brian Novosak
Cc: Tyler Abbott
Subject: Fwd: Q: TWE status

Hi, folks,

See Dave Carlson's email below. Can you think of any major outstanding issues for

TransWest Express that we are going to need to work on? Are we on board with Western's plans for the model they are going to use for sage-grouse?

Please let me know so I can compile and get back with Dave quickly. Thanks!

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We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. ~Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Carlson, Dave** <dave_e_carlson@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2013 at 3:17 PM
Subject: Q: TWE status
To: Julie Reeves <julie_reeves@fws.gov>
Cc: Nathan Darnall <nathan_darnall@fws.gov>

Hi Julie,
I understand BLM plans to issue the DEIS for TransWest Express in late June. I know some tweaks in the "preferred" alternative are still being looked at.
At this time, does FWS know of any major out-standing issues for the project that still need resolution?

Also, I've seen a little email traffic from or to WAPA regarding the HEA model they plan to use for sage grouse habitat.
Do we know yet whether we're on board with the WAPA's plans for model use, or whether we have any concerns?

thank you